

### Amendments to Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An aqueous polymer emulsion composition resistant to biodeteriogenic microbe contamination comprising a ~~protective colloid~~ poly(vinyl alcohol) stabilized aqueous polymer emulsion combined with a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of a substituted guanidine salt, a polymeric cationic compound, and mixtures thereof, wherein the substituted guanidine salt is substituted with an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, or an aryl group containing 2 to 18 carbons, said cationic compound in an amount effective for preventing biodeteriogenic microbe contamination of said polymer emulsion, said polymer emulsion containing little or no nonionic or anionic surfactants and little or no anionic substituents.

Cancel claims 2-3.

4. (currently amended) The polymer emulsion composition of claim ~~3~~1, wherein the cationic compound is selected from the group consisting of *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride, poly(hexamethyleneguanide) hydrochloride, and mixtures thereof.

5. (currently amended) The polymer emulsion composition of claim ~~3~~1, wherein the cationic compound is *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride.

6. (currently amended) The polymer emulsion composition of claim ~~3~~1 further comprising one or more other industrial biocide.

7. (original) The polymer emulsion composition of claim 6 wherein the one or more other industrial biocide is 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, or mixtures thereof.

8. (currently amended) The polymer emulsion composition of claim ~~3~~1 wherein the polymer emulsion is selected from the group consisting of a poly(vinyl acetate-co-ethylene),

poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl acetate-butyl acrylate), poly(vinyl acetate-(2-ethyl)hexyl acrylate), and poly(vinyl chloride-co-ethylene).

9. (original) The polymer emulsion composition of claim 8 wherein the polymer emulsion is a poly(vinyl acetate-co-ethylene) or a poly(vinyl acetate).

10. (currently amended) A method for preventing biodeteriogenic microbe contamination in ~~a protective colloid~~ poly(vinyl alcohol) stabilized polymer emulsions comprising:

mixing an effective amount for preventing biodeteriogenic microbe contamination of a cationic compound with said polymer emulsion, said cationic compound selected from the group consisting of a substituted guanidine salt, a polymeric cationic compound, and mixtures thereof, wherein the substituted guanidine salt is substituted with an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, or an aryl group containing 2 to 18 carbons said polymer emulsion containing little or no nonionic or anionic surfactants and little or no anionic substituents.

Cancel claims 11 and 12.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~12, wherein the cationic compound is selected from the group consisting of *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride, and mixtures thereof.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~12, wherein the cationic compound is *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~12 further comprising mixing one or more other industrial biocide with the polymer emulsion.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the one or more other industrial biocide is 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, or mixtures thereof.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1012 wherein the polymer emulsion is selected from the group consisting of a poly(vinyl acetate-co-ethylene), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(vinyl acetate-butyl acrylate), poly(vinyl acetate-(2-ethyl)hexyl acrylate), and poly(vinyl chloride-co-ethylene).

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the polymer emulsion is a poly(vinyl acetate-co-ethylene) or a poly(vinyl acetate).

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1012, wherein the amount of the cationic compound ranges from 10 ppm to 1 wt %, based on the wet weight of the polymer emulsion.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 1012, wherein the amount of the cationic compound ranges from 50 ppm to 5000 ppm, based on the wet weight of the polymer emulsion.

21. (original) An adhesive composition comprising the aqueous polymer emulsion composition of claim 1, wherein said adhesive composition is resistant to biodeteriogenic microbe contamination.

22. (original) The adhesive composition of claim 21 which comprises:

30 to 90 parts by weight of the aqueous polymer emulsion composition of claim 1;

2 to 30 parts by weight of a plasticizer;

0 to 5 parts by weight of a thickener;

0 to 20 parts by weight of a humectant;

0 to 35 parts by weight of a tackifier;

0 to 10 parts by weight of poly(vinyl alcohol); and

0 to 40 parts by weight of a filler.

23. (currently amended) An aqueous polymer emulsion composition resistant to biodeteriogenic microbe contamination comprising a ~~protective colloid~~ poly(vinyl alcohol) stabilized aqueous polymer emulsion combined with 10 to 400 ppm, based on the wet weight

of said polymer emulsion, of a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of a substituted guanidine salt, a substituted pyridinium salt, a tetrasubstituted ammonium salt, a polymeric cationic compound, and mixtures thereof, wherein the substituted guanidine salt and the substituted pyridinium salt are substituted with an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, or an aryl group containing 2 to 18 carbons and the tetrasubstituted ammonium salt is substituted with one or more of an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, and/or an aryl, said polymer emulsion containing little or no nonionic or anionic surfactants and little or no anionic substituents, said cationic compound effective in said amounts for preserving protective colloid stabilized polymer emulsions.

Cancel claims 24 and 25.

26. (currently amended) The polymer emulsion composition of claim ~~23~~<sup>24</sup>, wherein the cationic compound is selected from the group consisting of *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride, cetyl pyridinium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium chloride, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride, and mixtures thereof.

27. (currently amended) A method for preventing biodeteriogenic microbe contamination in a ~~protective colloid~~ poly(vinyl alcohol) stabilized polymer emulsion comprising:

mixing said polymer emulsion with 10 to 400 ppm, based on the wet weight of polymer emulsion, of a cationic compound selected from the group consisting of a substituted guanidine salt, a substituted pyridinium salt, a tetrasubstituted ammonium salt, a polymeric cationic compound, and mixtures thereof, wherein the substituted guanidine salt and the substituted pyridinium salt are each individually substituted with an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, or an aryl group containing 2 to 18 carbons and the tetrasubstituted ammonium salt is substituted with one or more of an alkyl, a cycloalkyl, and/or an aryl, said polymer emulsion containing little or no nonionic or anionic surfactants and little or no anionic substituents.

Cancel claims 28 and 29.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~27~~<sup>29</sup>, wherein the cationic compound is selected from the group consisting of *n*-dodecylguanidine hydrochloride, cetyl pyridinium

Appl. No. 09/997,599

chloride, didecyldimethylammonium chloride, poly(hexamethylenebiguanide) hydrochloride, and mixtures thereof.